

“Church - An Investment In People”

Acts 2:42-47

We live in an age where people seem to be disconnected from one another. Many folks have friended hundreds of people on face book, but have little face-to-face interaction. This was not the case in the early church. In our passage for today we get a glimpse into the fellowship of the church. The people were connected to each other and saw their participation in church as an investment in people and the Kingdom.

#1. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES BEING DEVOTED TO THE _____, v. 42

- A. They were committed to the teaching of God’s word
- B. They studied God’s word together
- C. They were living in a new era of salvation history
- D. They were under the new covenant

#2. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES BEING DEVOTED TO _____, v. 42

- A. They were committed to the fellowship (*Gr. Koinonia - sharing, partnership, things in common, community*)
- B. They were connected with each other, Rom 12:10
- C. They had invested in each other’s well-being, Rom 12:6

#3. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES BEING DEVOTED TO THE _____, vv. 42, 46-47

- A. The breaking of bread refers to the Lord’s Supper, v. 42
- B. They met in homes and shared meals together, v. 46
- C. The early church was a home-church movement, v. 46
- D. They were glad and sincere, v. 46

#4. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES BEING DEVOTED TO _____, v. 42

- A. They prayed together regularly
- B. Their prayers reflected their dependency on Jesus
- C. They prayed at the Temple

#5. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES BEING _____ AT WHAT GOD IS DOING, v. 43

- A. They were all filled with awe (Lit. fear)
- B. The miraculous power of God worked through the apostles
- C. The miraculous power of God is at work today

#6. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES MEETING THE _____ OF PEOPLE, vv. 44-45

- A. They gave sacrificially, v. 44
- B. They gave voluntarily, v. 45
- C. Their giving was a demonstration of their love, vv. 44-45

#7. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES _____ TOGETHER, v. 46

- A. They met in the Temple courts
- B. They mingled with the people & shared the gospel
- C. The apostles taught there

#8. FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES THE _____, v. 47

- A. They enjoyed the favor of all the people
- B. Their fellowship was infectious
- C. The Lord added to their numbers daily

NOTES:

ANSWERS: Apostles’ Teaching, One Another, Breaking of Bread, Prayer, Amazed, Needs, Reaching Out, Blessing of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What insights have you gained from this teaching?
- #2. In what way(s) can the fellowship of God's people be attractive to people outside the church?
- #3. Which of the eight aspects of fellowship on the outline do you see us excelling at? What needs some improvement?
- #4. What are your impressions about the way they sacrificially gave of their resources to meet the needs of the people in their church? (see James 2:15-16 & 1 John 3:17-18 on the back cover)
- #5. In what way(s) is attending church an investment in the people you worship with?
- #6. In what way(s) are believers filled with a sense of awe in today's church? (v. 43)
- #7. Why is being connected with other believers such an important part of the Christian Experience?

NOTES:

Welcome To Hillcrest Church

Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

January 7, 2024
Bruce Guckelberg, PhD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Pastor Bruce will be teaching on the characteristics of a healthy church from Acts 2:42-47. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper

NEXT SUNDAY – ANNUAL VISION MEETING

We will have a slide show presentation about 2023 in review, a presentation of the budget for 2024, and the election of board members followed by a potluck. You can get a copy of the report of the nominating committee in the back of the sanctuary.

NEW TEACHING SERIES

Pastor Bruce will begin a new series titled "Spiritual Warfare" beginning January 21st.

SMALL GROUPS

One objective for 2024 is to develop a thriving small group ministry. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday, January 9, we are starting up our online meeting at 7pm. There will be a time of prayer and a Bible study based on the previous Sunday's sermon. There will be no Wednesday zoom meeting.

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